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COAL MINING MECHANIZATION PROGRESSES, BUT LAGS IN KARAGANDA, KIRGIZIA

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

During the Fourth Five-Year Plan more than 600 million cubic meters of water have been pumped out of the flooded mines of the Donets Basin. By the beginning of the second quarter 1949, 222 important Donbass mines had been restored and put into operation.

By mid-1949, mechanization in mines of the Ministry of the Coal Industry was carried out 98.5 percent for cutting and shooting, 93.3 percent for transport on conveyers, 91 percent for haulage, and 98.5 percent for loading onto railroad cars. From August 1948 to August 1949, more than 600 stone- and coalloading machines were put into use in the ministry's mines. Labor productivity was 12 percent higher in 1949 than in 1948. (1)

Of the many dozens of Donbass combines operating in the "Stalinugol'" Combine in October 1949, four were utilized in the Novo-Mushketovo Mine. The fourth section of this mine had produced only 60-80 tons per 24-hour period when working with a 30-man force, while in October a 14-man brigade produced 200 tons of coal.(2) Also Mine No 1 imeni Chelyuskintsy of the "Stalinugol" Trust has been paying great attention to better exploitation of the mine face. In October 1949, coal removed from every linear meter of face amounted to approximately 2 tons and was to increase to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons. (3)

The "Chistyakovantratsit" Trust at present uses Donbass combines at 17 faces and stone-loading machines at ten development areas. Mine No 3-bis, the largest of this trust, is fully mechanized and has started a school on all phases of mechanization.(4) In the "Snezhnyantratsit" Trust, cutting-machine operators cut up 9,729 tons in 1949, while in Mine No 2/7 "Lidiyevka" they cut as much as 10,469 tons of coal.(1) The "Voroshilovgradugol'" Combine, however, is criticized because of its slow progress in mechanizing work processes; only 60 percent of the combines are operating in its mines. (5)

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At a meeting of Party economic activests of the Moscow Basin held on 7 February 1950 in Stalinogorsk, A. D. Lebedkov stated that the mines of the Moscow Basin had fulfilled the Five-Year Plan in 3 years, adding that they stepped up coal production during 1949 and delivered 765,000 tons of coal above plan. Ten mine faces above plan were put into operation and much new machinery was put into use (6), from which Stalinogorsk Mines No 22 and 26 received 10-ton Yu-10 electric locomotives. (7)

An antimechanization attitude is also reported from the Karaganda Coal Basin. A Pravda article of 29 June 1949 criticized the basin for this reason; however, the situation has not improved after 6 months. In November 1949, there were 22 combines in operation, while now there are only 12, many of which are idle most of the time.(8) In many mines of the "Leninugol'" Trust, headed by Serikov, labor is still carried out manually.(9) On the other hand, miners of Mine No 44/45 have completed the quarter plan and their March quota. (10)

At a plenum of the TsK KP(b) Kirgizia, held 19 - 21 January, the "Kirgizugol'" Trust was criticized because of its poor organization of work and improper utilization of equipment and mining devices (11), especially since the amount of machinery in the coal mines has almost doubled. Labor productivity, although higher than for 1948, amounted to only 95 percent of the plan. Scarcely 15 percent of all coal mined is obtained by means of cutting machines. (12) Only the Kok-Yangak Mine is operating above the level of planned capacity. (11)

On the other hand, the mines of Krasnoyarsk Kray began 1950 with new production successes. Mines of Mine No 8 of the "Khakassugol'" Trust exceeded their daily quota for coal mining 9.1 percent during the first days of January 1950. Mines of the "Kanskugol'" Trust pledged to fulfill the Five-Year Plan by 1 March 1950. (13)

Moreover, the rich lignite deposits of the Kazakh SSR are not adequately exploited. For example, the mines of the Kel'temashat lignite deposits located in Tyul'kubasskiy Rayon, South Kazakhstan, are not operating at full capacity. They would be able to produce hundreds of tons more per day than they do. Poor sales account for the fact that mining is not carried out on a larger scale. Thousands of tons are stored in hoppers at the mines and in warehouses of the Alma-Ata base of the "Topzagotsbyt" (Fuel Procurement and Sale) Trust. Kel'temashat lignite is very similar to Lenger coal in composition, structure, and calorific value but has a slightly higher ash and moisture content; its calorific value is 100-200 calories less. (14)

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